
C O N C L U S I O N

Conclusion

This report has shown that East Cambridge is characterized by a declining family population, a drop in the number of school-aged children, changing employment patterns, and an influx of newer residents who have higher incomes than the longer term residents. In addition, new commercial and residential development has brought unprecedented physical changes to the neighborhood in a relatively short period of time.

Amid these changes, East Cambridge continues to maintain an anchor of stability. Long-time homeowners still have a strong presence in the neighborhood and are generally optimistic about the future quality of life.

But to maintain and improve the quality of life in East Cambridge will require new strategies: strong growth management planning and controls; assistance to small businesses; expanded housing opportunities for low and moderate income residents; strict traffic mitigation measures; and improved park maintenance.

Forging a strong working relationship between a coalition of neighborhood interests—new and long-time residents, neighborhood groups, service agencies, the business community, and clergy—and city government will be the key to reaching these common goals.

Implementation Steps

Action Step	Agency Responsible
LAND USE AND ZONING	
1. Rezone priority areas	CDD
a. Form committee of landowners/residents	CDD
b. Submit rezoning petition	CDD
2. During rezoning study period, institute interim zoning measures to place temporary height and density limits on areas being studied for rezoning.	CDD
3. Institute procedure for public notification of all development projects filed with the city.	CDD/
4. Form committee to establish affordable housing plan for DOT lands.	CDD/CRA
5. Establish plan for reuse of old fire station.	CDD
CAMBRIDGE STREET BUSINESS DISTRICT	
1. Initiate comprehensive parking study of Cambridge Street.	Traffic
2. Start small business assistance program, including physical improvements and access to financial and technical assistance.	CDD
a. Conduct survey of business owners on Cambridge Street	CDD
b. Conduct study of residential property	CDD
c. Liaison with business association CDD/ neighborhood	
TRAFFIC AND PARKING	
1. Place truck route signs at appropriate locations and study further truck restrictions on Charles Street.	Traffic
2. Make East Cambridge garage available during snow emergencies.	CDD/Traffic
3. Plan and implement one-way street system.	Traffic/CDD
4. Formulate traffic mitigation policy for all East Cambridge developments.	Traffic/CDD

(Implementation Steps continued)

Action Step	Agency Responsible
5. Work with owner of Twin City Mall to install walkway from Gore Street to Twin City Mall.	Twin City Mall/CDD
6. Advocate for speed-up of roadway improvements on Binney Street.	CDD/Traffic
7. Study benefits and impacts of opening up the median at Binney Street and Fulkerson Street.	CDD/Traffic
8. Work with the MBTA to provide a pedestrian overpass and at-grade crossing on Monsignor O'Brien Highway.	CDD/Traffic

HOUSING

1. Examine conversions of three family homes	CDD
2. Expand housing rehabilitation for rent controlled property.	CDD
3. Identify sites for the construction of new housing for low and moderate income residents.	CDD
4. Publicize tax abatement program.	Revaluation
5. Update housing sales data for 1987 and 1988.	CDD

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

1. Study ways to improve coordination of park planning, development and maintenance, including centralization of services under one agency.	CDD/DPW/Recreation/ Parks and Forestry
2. Start program for citizen participation in park maintenance and beautification.	CDD/DPW
3. Increase recreation programming in parks.	Recreation
4. Increase lighting and police presence in neighborhood parks.	Police/CDD
5. Dedicate new East Cambridge parks to Luke Agnetta and Tom Walker.	CDD/City Council
6. Post signs in parks encouraging residents to keep parks clean.	CDD/DPW

APPENDIX

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DEMOGRAPHIC TABLES

Population

	East Cambridge	City	EC as % of City	EC % Changes	City % Change Last 10 Years
1960	6,702	107,716	6.2%	—	—
1970	5,776	100,361	5.8%	1.6%	-7.3%
1980	5,380	95,322	5.6%	5.6%	5.3%

Households

	East Cambridge	Persons per Household	City	Persons per Household	EC as % of City
1960	1,980	3.2	34,253	2.8	5.8%
1970	2,015	2.9	36,411	2.4	5.5%
1980	2,283	2.4	38,955	2.1	5.8%

Families

	East Cambridge	% of all Households	Persons/ Family	City	Person/ Family	% of all Household
1960	1,719	83.6%	3.6	24,187	3.4	71%
1970	1,419	70.4%	3.5	20,850	3.2	57%
1980	1,256	56.3%	3.2	17,719	3.0	46%

Female Headed Families with Children under 18 as a Percentage of All Families

	East Cambridge	City
1960	NA	NA
1970	6.8%	7.3%
1980	8.8%	12.9%

Age of Population

1960

Age	East Cambridge	% of Total	City	% of Total	East Cambridge % of Total
0-4	687	10.6%	9,251	8.6%	7.4%
5-9	591	9.0%	7,174	6.6%	8.2%
10-19	1,066	16.4%	16,067	14.9%	6.6%
20-34	1,335	20.5%	28,811	26.7%	4.6%
35-54	1,622	24.9%	23,115	21.4%	7.0%
55-64	504	7.8%	10,681	9.9%	4.7%
65+	697	10.7%	12,617	11.7%	5.5%
Total	6,502	100%	107,986	100%	6.0%

1970

0-4	462	8.3%	5,919	5.9%	7.8%
5-9	447	8.0%	5,237	5.2%	8.5%
10-19	779	14.0%	15,228	15.2%	5.1%
20-34	1,190	21.4%	37,005	36.9%	3.2%
35-54	1,439	25.9%	16,862	16.8%	8.5%
55-64	617	11.1%	8,410	8.4%	7.3%
65+	625	11.2%	11,700	1.7%	5.3%
Total	5,559	100%	100,361	100%	5.5%

1980

0-4	270	5.0%	3,928	4.1%	6.9%
5-9	299	5.6%	3,802	4.0%	7.9%
10-19	724	13.4%	13,293	13.9%	5.4%
20-34	1,391	25.9%	40,734	42.7%	3.4%
35-54	1,033	19.2%	15,659	16.4%	6.6%
55-64	686	12.8%	7,035	7.4%	9.8%
65+	977	18.2%	10,871	11.4%	9.0%
Total	5,380	100%	95,322	100%	5.6%

Median Age of Population

	East Cambridge	City
1960	31.6	30.3
1970	31.9	26.6
1980	39.7	30.2

Income Measures

	1960		1970		1980	
	East Cambridge	City	East Cambridge	City	East Cambridge	City
Median Income						
Households	\$4,844	\$3,828	\$7,278	\$5,115	\$10,187	\$14,211
Families	\$5,415	\$5,943	\$8,886	\$9,815	\$15,929	\$17,845
Below Poverty (%)						
Households	NA	NA	16.7%	14.8%	NA	NA
Families	NA	NA	12.2%	8.6%	12.2%	11.0%
65 years +	NA	NA	32.0%	13.9%	12.0%	10.2%
Female headed with children under 18	NA	NA	61.0%	42.0%	35.0%	34.0%
Families on public assistance	NA	NA	14.0%	8.0%	18.0%	9.0%

NA = Not available

Income Distribution 1980

	East Cambridge	City
Less than \$5,000	9.2%	9.3%
\$5,000 - \$7,499	8.6%	8.1%
\$7,500 - \$9,999	9.1%	8.0%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	20.1%	15.6%
\$15,000 - \$19,999	13.9%	15.5%
\$20,000 - \$24,999	12.0%	13.3%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	16.9%	14.6%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	9.2%	9.0%
\$50,000 +	1.2%	6.7%
Total	100%	100%

Ancestry

1960

Ethnic Group	East Cambridge	% of East Cambridge	City	% of City	East Cambridge as a % of City
Italian	1,594	23.8%	6,243	5.8%	25.5%
Portuguese	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Irish	365	5.4%	8,699	8.1%	4.2%
Canadian	259	3.9%	11,278	10.5%	2.3%
Polish	410	6.1%	1,836	1.7%	22.3%
English	96	1.4%	3,338	3.1%	2.9%

1970

Italian	770	13.3%	1,062	1.1%	25.4%
Portuguese	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Irish	243	4.2%	972	1.1%	25.0%
Canadian	192	3.3%	2,569	2.6%	7.5%
Polish	296	5.1%	441	1.3%	67.1%
English	59	1.0%	1,218	1.2%	4.8%

1980

Italian	1,074	20.1%	5,203	5.5%	20.6%
Portuguese	1,185	22.0%	4,957	5.2%	24.1%
Irish	596	11.1%	9,695	16.2%	6.1%
Canadian	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Polish	276	5.1%	1,687	1.8%	16.4%
English	110	1.0%	1,731	1.8%	2.8%

Foreign Born

	East Cambridge	% of East Cambridge	City	% of City
1960	1,334	20.0%	16,411	15.2%
1970	1,361	23.6%	15,474	15.4%
1980	1,366	25.3%	17,563	17.5%

Race

1960

	East Cambridge	% of East Cambridge	City	% of City	East Cambridge as a % of City
White	6,674	99.6%	100,929	93.7%	6.6%
Black	8	0.1%	5,671	5.3%	0.01%
Amer. Indian	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Asian	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other	20	0.3%	1,116	1.0%	1.8%

1970

White	5,698	98.6%	91,408	91.1%	6.2%
Black	22	0.3%	6,783	6.8%	0.03%
Amer. Indian	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Asian	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other	56	1.1%	2,170	2.2%	2.6%

1980

White	5,141	95.6%	78,460	82.3%	6.6%
Black	59	1.1%	10,418	10.9%	1.0%
Amer. Indian	8	0.1%	184	0.2%	4.3%
Asian	72	1.3%	3,612	3.8%	2.0%
Spanish Origin	304	5.7%	4,536	4.8%	6.7%
Other	100	1.9%	2,648	2.8%	3.8%

Education Enrollment

1960

	East Cambridge	% of East Cambridge	City	% of City
Kindergarten	91	7.1%	1,338	7.9%
Elementary				
Public	611	47.1%	6,509	58.3%
Private	300	23.1%	4,648	41.7%
Secondary				
Public	232	17.8%	2,849	63.7%
Private	72	5.5%	1,625	36.3%
Total	1,306		16,969	
% Private	31%		40%	
% Public	69%		60%	

1970

Kindergarten	69	5.1%	989	6.8%
Elementary				
Public	892	66.1%	6,756	47.0%
Private	300	23.1%	2,396	16.7%
Secondary				
Public	232	17.8%	2,985	20.8%
Private	72	5.5%	1,209	8.4%
Total	1,565		14,335	
% Private	0%		27%	
% Public	100%		73%	

1980

Kindergarten				
		(combined with elementary)		
Elementary				
Public	553	77.3%	6,232	55.5%
Private	0	0.0%	1,516	13.5%
Secondary				
Public	162	22.7%	2,590	23.1%
Private	0	0.0%	883	7.9%
Total	715		11,221	
% Private	0%		21%	
% Public	100%		79%	

Educational Attainment (25 Years or Older)

1960

	East Cambridge	% of East Cambridge	City	% of City
Completed High School				
1-3 years	931	24.0%	11,910	19.0%
4 years+	725	18.0%	14,731	24.0%
Completed College				
1-3 years	82	2.0%	4,669	8.0%
4 years +	84	2.0%	11,321	18.0%

1970

Completed High School				
1-3 years	776	23.0%	8,526	16.0%
4 years+	740	23.0%	13,109	24.0%
Completed College				
1-3 years	73	2.0%	4,888	9.0%
4 years+	97	3.0%	16,499	30.0%

1980

Completed High School				
1-3 years	565	16.0%	5,428	9.0%
4 years+	899	25.0%	12,280	21.0%
Completed College				
1-3 years	261	7.0%	6,911	12.0%
4 years+	329	9.0%	25,001	43.0%

Labor Force

1960

	East Cambridge	City
Unemployed	6.5%	4.1%
Total Unemployed	2,602	46,278

1970

Unemployed	6.1%	4.0%
Total Unemployed	2,273	47,024

1980

Unemployed	8.3%	4.5%
Total Unemployed	2,420	49,682

Occupation

1960

	East Cambridge	% of East Cambridge	City	% of City
Professional/Technical	229	8.8%	12,045	26.0%
Clerical/Sales	562	21.6%	11,395	25.2%
Craftsmen	281	10.8%	4,096	8.9%
Operatives/Laborers	1,070	41.1%	9,443	20.4%
Services	227	8.7%	5,440	11.8%
Other	233	9.0%	3,859	8.3%

1970

Professional/Technical	285	12.5%	18,559	39.5%
Clerical/Sales	555	24.4%	12,768	27.2%
Craftsmen	332	14.6%	3,366	7.2%
Operative/Laborers	670	29.4%	6,276	13.3%
Services	382	16.8%	6,029	12.8%
Other	29	1.3%	26	0.1%

1980

Professional/Technical	383	15.8%	23,088	46.5%
Clerical/Sales	649	26.8%	11,830	23.8%
Craftsmen	287	11.9%	2,939	5.9%
Operative/Laborers	665	27.5%	5,012	10.1%
Services	436	18.0%	6,650	13.4%
Other	0	0.0%	163	0.3%

Industry

1960

	East Cambridge	% of East Cambridge	City	% of City
Construction	97	3.7%	1,227	2.7%
Manufacturing	1,214	46.7%	12,058	26.1%
Transportation	129	5.0%	1,531	3.3%
Communications	42	1.6%	988	2.1%
Trade (Whole & Retail)	493	18.9%	6,160	13.3%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Business	NA	NA	NA	NA
Educational	31	1.2%	8,244	
Health, Personal Services, Other Professional	128	5.0%	6,619	17.8%
Public Administration	158	6.1%	2,439	5.3%
Other	310	11.9%	7,012	15.2%

1970

Construction	133	5.9%	1,235	2.6%
Manufacturing	812	35.7%	8,021	17.1%
Transportation	55	2.4%	926	2.0%
Communication	79	3.5%	1,109	2.4%
Trade (Whole & Retail)	417	18.3%	6,025	12.8%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Business	104	4.6%	4,526	9.6%
Education	127	5.6%	12,790	27.2%
Health, Personal Services, Other Professional	388	17.1%	9,414	20.0%
Public Administration	154	6.8%	2,417	5.1%
Other	4	.01%	561	1.2%

(Industry continued)

1980

	East Cambridge	% of East Cambridge	City	% of City
Construction	143	5.9%	1,166	2.3%
Manufacturing	569	23.5%	6,620	13.3%
Transportation	102	4.2%	1,365	2.7%
Communications	33	1.4%	813	1.6%
Trade (Whole & Retail)	453	18.7%	6,013	12.1%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Business	116	4.8%	5,714	11.5%
Educational	251	10.4%	14,243	28.7%
Health, Personal Services, Other Professional	572	23.6%	11,009	22.2%
Public Administration	178	7.4%	2,537	5.1%
Other	3	.01%	202	.4%